

**MINUTES OF THE BINNAWAY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING HELD IN  
BINNAWAY BOWLING CLUB ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023  
COMMENCING AT 5.30PM.**

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**PRESENT:** Cr Ambrose Doolan (Mayor), Cr Kathryn Rindfleish (Deputy Mayor), Cr Zoe Holcombe, Cr Denis Todd, Roger Bailey (General Manager, GM), Leeanne Ryan (Director Environment and Development Services, DEDES), Nicole Benson (Director Technical Services, DTS), Lindsay Mason (Director Corporate and Community Services, DCCS), Steven Friend (Manager Fleet Services), Amanda Wherrett (PA for DCCS, Minutes), Malcolm Jones, Bernie McBain, Simone Wilson, Bill Tatt, Natasha Noakes, Lyn Petherbridge, Melissa Meyers, Gary Andrews, Ian Selwyn, Lisa Wright, Julie Mitchel, Jennifer Lambrill, Robert Lambrill, Dainelle Meyers, and Jim Larkin.

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Dale Hogden, Cr Carlton Kopke, Cr Kodi Brady, Cr Jason Newton, Cr Aniello Iannuzzi, and Ray Lewis.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Mayor Ambrose Doolan welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the councillors, General Manager (GM), Director Environment and Development Services (DEDES), Director Technical Services (DTS), Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS), and Minute Taker (PA to DCCS).

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2023**

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**1. What date will Box Ridge Road be graded? (Bernie McBain)**

Mr McBain requested that Box Ridge Road be graded, and suggested Council could obtain water for grading works from the river on his property if required.

DTS advised that once accessibility to Mr McBain's Box Ridge Road is possible, then grading works can be scheduled. DTS noted Mr McBain's offer to provide water from the river on his property for the grading works project.

**ACTION:** DTS to contact Mr McBain regarding grading works to be scheduled for Box Ridge Road.

**2. Where are the football field dressing sheds upgrades up to? Particularly, the girls shower (Bernie McBain)**

DTS advised that the Binnaway Football Club dressing shed project is part of the 2024/25 budget, and the project will commence in 2024/25 financial year.

Community member asked if the community can have input to this project?

DTS advised that Council has already spoken to the Binnaway Football Club regarding what was required for the upgrades.

**3. Binnaway pool not opening on the stated date (Simone Wilson)**

DTS advised that Council aimed to open the pool on 18 October 2023, however, due to an issue with the pool pump the pool remained closed. Council aims to complete the Binnaway pool maintenance in the next couple of days. Pool

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season opening times throughout the Shire are scheduled in succession due to limitations in resources.

DTS advised that Council is trailing free entry to all six Shire pools, as Council realises the importance of pools to the Shire communities. Council aims to communicate more regarding scheduled pool closures.

Community member asked how old pool pump is.

DTS advised that the Binnaway pool pump is new. There was an issue with the pump wiring, causing the operational issue.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the age of Binnaway pool equipment, and provide a pool maintenance schedule update.

Community member stated that Shire pools have commercial value for a community, making a town attractive to newcomers.

Mayor agreed that Shire pools are valuable to the communities, and Council has resolved to trial free entry to Shire pools when a pool attendant is rostered on.

Community member asked if the Binnaway pool heat pads are working. In addition, could the skate park be assessed for maintenance work.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the operational status of the Binnaway pool heat pads.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the Binnaway skate park for maintenance requirements.

#### **COUNCIL UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

##### **4. Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)**

DEDS provided an update on the REZ and associated projects.

Council has made submissions on projects raising various concerns including where water will be obtained. Submissions are available on Council's website.

The transmission line project is deemed a State Significant Infrastructure project and the state government can override local government.

There is an EnergyCo steering group including Council members that discuss local issues relating to REZ projects. There is a regional leadership collective including other councils working on submissions to the project application process together.

The community will start to see activity in the next 12 months including more workers in communities, and the accommodation camps in action.

Community members may make submissions on the project at [planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects](http://planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects).

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Mayor advised that all submissions made by Council have been objections to the REZ development, especially concerning: community impact; waste; and roads. The planning agreement applications are discussed in Coalition of Regional Energy Mayors (CoREM) meetings.

Community member asked how will the REZ development affect the Shire roads?

GM advised that Council has been making submissions on the various developments, this includes issues such as the impact on roads along with cumulative impacts.

DEDS advised that a submission can be made by residents, and are available on the Council website.

DEDS advised that an advisory committee will be established to recommend how funds are to be spent. Council will advertise for an expression of interest to be on this committee. Media releases will be circulated via the Council website and social media.

**5. Roads Restoration Program.**

DTS provided an update on the roads and the Natural Disaster Restoration works. Key points:

- Natural Disaster Restoration works are approximately 50% complete.
- \$10,568,493 in Natural Disaster funding has been approved for restorations. Two claims, \$3,004,143 for sealed roads, and \$594,000 for unsealed roads, were recently made and are under assessment.
- Council has engaged contractors, to supply an unsealed road maintenance crew to assist with the Natural Disaster restoration works.
- Three tenders have been advertised for flood damage road repairs: Sandy Creek area; Upper Lahey's Creek Roads; and North of Oxley area Goolhi and surrounds.
- \$864,683 has been received under the Pothole Repair Program, with over 80% of the funding spent so far. Funds must be spent by January 2024. A second Jet Patcher has been hired to assist with the works and staff are working weekends, as well as rostered days, to get the work done.
- \$4,590,978 has been under the Regional and Local Roads Repair program for urgent repairs to the road network. The program has recently been extended from 29 February 2024 to 31 October 2027.
- A Disaster Resilience Strategy is in development. This strategy will be driven by community consultation and will review road assets, such as bridges, culverts, and causeways, then look at the risk communities face

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due to natural disasters.

**6. Entry to the Pools**

DTS provided information on free entry to all pools across the Shire when a pool attendant is rostered on. Season ticket holders will have access from 6am until the pool closes.

Community member asked why the pool does not open until 7am.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the possibility of Binnaway pool opening at 6am.

**7. Projects and Grants**

DTS advised that the projects and subsequent budgets for Binnaway are:

- Binnaway Tennis Courts Renovation and Upgrade - \$261,000 LRCIP3 fund.
- Binnaway Pool Waste Water Disposal Improvements and Approvals - \$35,000 General fund.
- Binnaway Pool Continuous disinfectant dosing system - SCC5 fund.
- Binnaway Pool CCTV - \$150,000 LRCIP4 fund.
- Binnaway Footpath Rehabilitation - \$10,000 – General fund.
- Binnaway Pipe Drainage System – Norman Street / Yeulba Street - \$40,000 Stormwater levy.
- Binnaway Pipe Drainage System – Renshaw Street between Yarran Street and Cisco Street - \$50,000 Stormwater levy.
- Heavy Patching / Pothole Repair – Warrumbungle’s Way.
- Bus Shelter Redevelopment Project – Coolah direction, and Coonabarabran direction - Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme CPTIGS fund, and LRCIP 4 fund.
- Binnaway Oval Amenities Upgrade - \$178,000 SCCF 5 2024/25 Project fund.
- Shire Wide Playground Upgrades - \$400,000 LRCIP 4 fund.
- Len Guy Park Binnaway Toilet Upgrade - \$80,000 LRCIP 4 fund.
- Piambra Road Reconstruction - \$346,016 LRCIP 4 fund.

Community member asked what the operation status of the Binnaway town bore is.

DEDS advised that Binnaway bore had water quality test samples returned with the presence of radio isotopes which resulted in the bore not being suitable for use.

Community members were unaware of Binnaway water restrictions as they missed the Council’s online notice.

**ACTION:** DEDS to arrange a letterbox drop regarding water restrictions for Binnaway.

**8. Draft Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy.**

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DTS provided an update on Public Gates and Cattle Grids on Public Roads Policy. The policy has been reviewed and aims to support procedures for application, issuing of permits, inspections, assessments, and maintenance of public gates and cattle grids. Once finalised, the draft policy will be placed on public exhibition before it is adopted.

Community member asked who has the responsibility for building cattle grids?

DTS advised that the construction of cattle grids is the property owner's responsibility, in consultation with Council. There are new national standards for the construction of cattle grids, so property owners will have to comply with those standards.

Community member was concerned about the cattle grid ramp on Wingabutta Road. Since being graded, the ramp could not be used due to erosion, resulting in the grader becoming bogged. The land owner cannot shut the gate, and the ramp is in poor condition.

**ACTION:** DTS to assess the condition of Wingabutta Road, and the installation of a cattle grid ramp.

**9. Budget – Upcoming calls for submissions (External Budget Submissions, Annual Donations, Community Financial Assistance Donations)**

DCCS provided information about upcoming opportunities to have input to the 2024/25 Budget.

Additionally, applications will open early in the new year for Annual Donations, and the next round of Community Financial Assistance Donations.

Guidelines for Community Financial Assistance Donations has been reviewed, and moving forward, low priority will be given to groups that have already received a donation in the first round of funding each year.

**10. Australia Day.**

DCCS advised provided information about nominations for the 2024 Australia Day Awards. These awards are run in conjunction with the NSW Local Citizen of the Year Awards.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Water restrictions**

DEDS advised that Level 1 water restrictions for Binnaway commenced on 10 October 2023. Visit Council website for information.

**12. Change to Binnaway Waste Pick Up**

DEDS advised that due to staffing requirements Binnaway waste collection will occur on Thursday 14 December 2023, instead of Friday 15 December 2023.

**13. Community member asked if Council could clarify whether the Binnaway Hall is for hire or not?**

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DTS advised that Binnaway Hall is currently hired out for a single-use application only due to the Hall's condition.

14. Community member stated that she paid for the Binnaway Hall hire bond, and has had difficulty communicating with Council in regards to the receiving her bond back.

DCCS advised that a number of bond refunds were signed today, and that payment can be expected in the next couple days.

15. Community member asked if Council could explain why there is a \$40 million sitting in term deposits, and why is that money not spent on rate payers.

GM advised that a large amount of the Federal funds are for advanced payments, for example, the Financial Assistance Grant payments that have been paid a year in advance plus the Regional and Local Road Repair program fully paid in advance.

16. Community member asked if there is going to be any more kerb and guttering works planned for Binnaway?

DTS advised that kerb and guttering works are not part of the current projects for Binnaway.

GM advised that community members can make a submission to the External Budget for 2024/25.

17. Community member was concerned about the entrance bridge to Binnaway, from the Mollyan road side, being dangerous to drivers at night.

**ACTION:** DTS to investigate the Binnaway bridge visibility at night, and the need for reflective paint added to the bridge entrance on the Mollyan road side.

Mayor Ambrose Doolan thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.

**There being no further business, meeting was closed 6.45 pm.**